

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

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TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: ICEM EXPENDITURES: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 089228

1. MISOFFS MET WITH ICEM DIRECTOR THOMAS AND FINANCE CHIEF MERRILL APRIL 14 TO DISCUSS POINTS RAISED REFTEL AND SET PROGRAM FOR RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES CITED. FOLLOWING POLICY STATEMENT SUBMITTED TO MISSION BY ICEM TODAY IN COMPLIANCE PARA 4A REFTEL:

QUOTE.

ICEM POLICY ON BILLING MEMBER GOVERNMENTS FOR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES:

FINANCING OF THE COMMITTEE IS GOVERNED BY ARTICLE 22 OF THE CONSTITUTION WHICH STATES:

"THE DIRECTOR SHALL SUBMIT TO THE COUNCIL, THROUGH THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AN ANNUAL BUDGET COVERING THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND THE ANTICIPATED RESOURCES OF THE COMMITTEE,..."
ARTICLE 4.1 OF THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

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ENTITLED ADMINISTRATION OF THE BUDGET STATES:

"4.1 APPROPRIATION OF THE BUDGET AND THE PLAN OF EXPENDITURE BY THE COUNCIL SHALL CONSTITUTE AN AUTHORIZATION TO THE DIRECTOR TO INCUR COMMITMENTS AND MAKE DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE PURPOSES AND WITHIN THE LIMITS SPECIFIED THEREIN."

THEREFORE, THE DIRECTOR IS LIMITED IN ACTIVITIES WHICH HE MAY UNDERTAKE UNLESS SUCH ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL.

IN DECEMBER 1972 THE COUNCIL CONSIDERED DOCUMENT MC/1033, ENTITLED PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF ICEM. AFTER EXTENSIVE DEBATE ON THE SUBJECT, THE COUNCIL CONCLUDED THAT THE DOCUMENT AND THE SUGGESTIONS OF THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAD PARTICIPATED IN THESE DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE BETTER FORMULATED AND SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AT ITS SPRING SESSION.

SUBSEQUENTLY, AT ITS SPRING SESSION IN MAY 1973, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DEVELOPED "CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES FOR THE FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF ICEM" (DOCUMENT MC/1059, PAGE 23). AFTER ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR EXISTING PROGRAMMES FOR WHICH FINANCING SHOULD BE ASSURED, IT FURTHER STATED THAT "THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA SHOULD BE MET BEFORE ANY NEW ACTIVITY IS UNDERTAKEN:

1. THE SUBMISSION OF A REQUEST FOR ICEM INTERVENTION FROM A MEMBER GOVERNMENT AND IN SPECIAL CASES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED OR NORMALLY FROM THOSE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ENJOYING OBSERVER STATUS WITH THE COUNCIL,
2. THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS OUTSIDE THE NORMAL BUDGET,
3. THE NEW ACTIVITY SHOULD NOT WEAKEN ICEM'S EXISTING PROGRAMMES, WHICH WOULD ALWAYS HAVE PRIORITY, AND SHOULD BE SUBMITTED FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OR THE COUNCIL."

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AS FAR AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET IS CONCERNED, THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP (MC/EX/301) ESTABLISHED UNDER THE TERMS OF RESOLUTION NO. 521 (XXXVI) TO REVIEW THE PERCENTAGE SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 1975 TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE PART OF THE BUDGET CONCLUDED THAT:

- (A) THAT ICEM SHOULD INCLUDE A LINE ITEM IN THE SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET FOR "ADMINISTRATION OF SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

OUTSIDE ICEM'S REGULAR PROGRAMME".

(B) THAT ICEM SHOULD INCLUDE A LINE ITEM IN THE SCALE FOR "ADMINISTRATION OF LOAN FUND."

(C) THAT ICEM SHOULD INCLUDE A LINE ITEM IN THE SCALE FOR "MISCELLANEOUS INCOME DERIVED FROM GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS".

THE ABOVE TWO ACTIONS ESTABLISHED ICEM'S POLICY FOR CHARGES FOR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES TO BE ALLOCATED TO BOTH THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL PARTS OF THE BUDGET.

UNQUOTE.

2. MISSION INTERPRETS ABOVE POLICY STATEMENT TO MEAN THAT GOVERNMENTS REQUESTING ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE NORMAL BUDGETED OPERATIONS MUST FUND SUCH ACTIVITIES. THE CHARGES FOR HEADQUARTERS ADMINISTRATION OF SPECIAL ACTIVITIES ARE COVERED UNDER THE LINE ITEM IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET PER WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATION (A) IDENTIFIED ABOVE. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS INTERPRETATION, WITH WHICH ICEM AGREES, MISSION CONCURS IN THE POLICY STATEMENT.

3. MISSION AND ICEM WILL BE CONTINUING MEETINGS IN COMING DAYS TO RESOLVE ITEMS 4 B, C AND D REFTEL AS URGENTLY AS POSSIBLE. WILL REPORT RESULTS AS THEY OCCUR.ABRAMS

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